

TOILET ACCESSORY KIT

Background Of The Invention

Field of the Invention:

This invention relates to bathroom accessories, and more particularly, to a toilet accessory kit containing a plunger, a combined brush and water jet cleaning implement, and storage means for one or more rolls of toilet paper.

5 Prior Art:

Residential and commercial toilets require frequent cleaning, and may also sometimes require clearance of a blockage which prevents proper drainage of water from the toilet. The most frequently used cleaning implement is a brush or similar tool which is used to scrub the toilet bowl. If the drain from the toilet becomes blocked, a plunger is commonly used to alternately produce pressure and suction in the trap to dislodge the obstruction. Both brushes and plungers are available in a variety of shapes and sizes.

Although conventional brushes perform adequately for cleaning the surfaces of the toilet bowl, they are not adapted for cleaning the jets which introduce water into the toilet beneath the rim of the bowl. In fact, these jets are rarely if ever cleaned by the average homeowner and may eventually become partially or completely blocked, thereby impeding the proper performance of the toilet.

A variety of prior art plungers are exemplified in U.S. patents 2066773, 2844826, 3021532, and 4458368. Patent 2066773 discloses a drain and flushing apparatus comprising a cup-shaped member surrounded by a skirt 11. Water may be introduced into the interior of the cup-shaped member to generate pressure and flush out a clogged drain, while the outer skirt 11 serves to seal and hold the device to a sink basin or the like, by acting as a suction cup.

Patent 2844826 discloses a plunger having a specially configured bell 12 surrounding an inner guide portion 28. The inner guide portion comprises an

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Design patents Des. 161014 and Des. 272874, and patents 2464085, 2539838, 3429474 and 4033650 all disclose toilet brush holders of various styles and constructions.

Design patent Des. 356893 and utility patent 4432451 both disclose devices
5 for holding and storing toilet plungers. In addition, Des. 356893 discloses use of the device for holding a brush.

None of the patents noted above discloses a tool for cleaning the jets in a toilet bowl, nor do any of them disclose a toilet accessory kit comprising a holder with means for supporting a toilet brush, plunger, and extra rolls of toilet paper,
10 wherein a cover may be provided to enclose the brush, plunger, and toilet paper, thereby making the accessory kit aesthetically pleasing for storage in a bathroom. In prior art devices, the toilet brush and plunger are either stored in the open and in plain sight in a bathroom, detracting from the decor of the bathroom, or the brush and plunger are stored in a remote location, detracting from the
15 convenience of use.

Accordingly, there is need for a toilet accessory kit which is aesthetically pleasing so that it may be left in a bathroom without detracting from the decor thereof, and which includes all of the tools normally used in cleaning a toilet, including means for cleaning the jets in the toilet bowl, and a plunger with a
20 compact integrated splash shield.

Summary Of The Invention

In accordance with the present invention, a toilet accessory kit is provided which includes a toilet cleaning brush and jet cleaning tool, and a plunger, with a cover to make the kit aesthetically pleasing so that it may be conveniently stored
25 in the bathroom.

The holder comprises a one-piece molded base section with a receptacle in each end of the base member, on opposite sides of the divider, for holding a brush and a plunger, respectively. The receptacles include an upstanding handle attached thereto, and a cup in one end for receiving and holding the brush and jet cleaning
30 tool, and a cup-shaped recess in the other end for receiving and holding the

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The toilet cleaning brush and jet cleaning tool are incorporated into a single implement, and the implement is constructed to facilitate use of both the brush and the jet cleaning tool.

Brief Description Of The Drawings

Fig. 1 is a top perspective view of the toilet accessory kit of the invention, showing the cover in dot-and-dash lines;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view taken along line 3-3 in figure 2;

25 Fig. 5 is an enlarged fragmentary vertical sectional view of the plunger of the kit of the invention;

Fig. 7 is an enlarged fragmentary perspective view of the brush and jet
30 cleaning tool of the invention;



Fig. 8 is an enlarged view in side elevation of the jet cleaning instrument used with the tool in figure 7; and

Fig. 9 is a perspective view of the handle and divider member used in the holder of the invention.

5 Detailed Description Of The Preferred Embodiments

Referring more specifically to the drawings, a toilet accessory kit according to the invention is indicated generally at 10 in figures 1 and 2. The kit includes a base member 11 having generally an elongate egg-shape in plan view and defining an enlarged substantially circular cavity 12 in one end. A cup-shaped receptacle 13 is integrally molded in the opposite end, and two pairs of parallel, spaced-apart flanges 14, 15 and 16, 17 are formed on the inner surfaces of the side walls of the base member, approximately midway between the opposite ends thereof, and oriented directly opposite one another to form opposing, vertically extending channels 18 and 19.

A combination divider and handle member 20 has a wide lower end portion 21 with opposite side edges 22 and 23 received in the channels 18 and 19 to form a dividing wall extending across the base member 11, separating it into the opposite end portions.

As seen best in figures 2 and 3, a tapered shoulder with a downwardly facing ledge 24 is formed in each channel 18 and 19 for cooperation with an oppositely tapered shoulder having an upwardly facing ledge 25 on each of the opposite side edges of the lower portion 21 to lock the handle member and divider in place when it is inserted into the channels 18 and 19. Thus, the base member may be easily manufactured as a one-piece unit, with the handle member being separately manufactured as a unit and then assembled to the base member.

The handle and divider member includes an elongate upstanding handle 26 for carrying the holder. Additionally, the handle is shaped and sized to receive thereover one or more rolls of toilet paper P for storing extra rolls.

A combined brush and jet cleaning tool 30 is supported in the cup-shaped receptacle 13 in one end of the base member 11 and comprises a head 31 having

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bristles **32** projecting from one side thereof and a tapered jet-cleaning pick **33** projecting from the other side. An elongate handle **34** extends at an angle "A" from the head **31**. The angle "A" is selected so that the tool is particularly suited for using either the bristles **32** or the pick **33**. In a preferred construction, for example, the angle "A" may range from about 25° up to about 45°.

As seen in figure 8, the pick **33** includes an elongate tapered end **35** that may be inserted into the jets to clean them, and a threaded end **36** for threaded engagement in a mating opening (not shown) in an edge portion of the brush head **31**. Suitably shaped surfaces **37** may be provided for manipulating the pick **33** with a suitable tool.

If desired, a reflective surface **40**, such as a mirror, may be provided on the back of the brush head **31** to facilitate ease of use by reflecting an image of the jets so that the user can accurately position the pick when the tool is used.

A plunger **50** is supported in the end **12** of the base member **11** and comprises a generally spherically-shaped member **51** having a concavo-convex open end **52** of reduced diameter, and a depending cylindrical skirt **53** extending downwardly around the open end **52** from approximately the midpoint of the spherical member **51**. Annular flanges **54** and **55** are formed on the bottom ends of the concavo-convex section **52** and the skirt **53**, respectively, and an elongate handle **56** is attached to the upper, closed end **57** of the spherical member. The spherical member and skirt are integrally formed as one piece from any suitable material, such as rubber, commonly employed in the manufacture of plungers.

In use, the concavo-convex open end **52** of spherical member **51** is adapted to fit into and seal with various size openings, and the cylindrical skirt **53** is adapted to seal against the surface surrounding the opening to serve as a splash shield and also to form a secondary seal between the plunger and the opening of the drain which is clogged.

In a preferred embodiment, a cover **C** is placed over the base member **11** in enclosing relationship to the handle member **20**, brush **30** and plunger **50**, with only an end portion of the handle **26A** exposed through the top of the cover to permit lifting and carrying of the kit.

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While particular embodiments of the invention have been illustrated and described in detail herein, it should be understood that various changes and modifications may be made to the invention without departing from the spirit and intent of the invention as defined by the scope of the appended claims.

5 What is claimed is:

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